

Appl. No. 10/673,287

Amdt. dated January 6, 2006

Reply to Office Action of December 7, 2005

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Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

~~An apparatus to excise a sample of material and temporarily store sample has a hollow clamshell casing with a blended grip under which is a tubular sample sleeve extends downwards from the base of the grip. Within the casing an electric motor is housed which drives, via juxtaposed spur gears, the sample sleeve in a rotational manner. The end of the sample sleeve, distal from the clamshell casing, forms a cutting edge circumscribing a circular region. An ejection rod slides reciprocally within the sample sleeve between a stowed position and an expulsion position. When the ejection rod moves from the stowed position to the expulsion position it will extend past the cutting edge and expel any material sample contained within the sample sleeve. A user cuts a sample from a source material resting on a pliable substrate, using the cutting edge of the sample sleeve when the ejection rod is in the stowed position. A sample is cut when the cutting blade contacts the source material while gentle downward pressure is applied. The thumb activates the electric drive which rotates the cutting sleeve. Once the source material has been cut it is simultaneously extracted and lodged within the tubular sample sleeve. The extracted sample remains lodged in the hollow of the sample sleeve until the user extends the ejection rod through the sample sleeve to the expulsion position to eject the sample of source materials. The automatic return of the eject rod is comprised of a compression spring that biases the ejection shaft which holds the ejection rod in the retracted and stowed positions. A motorized sample collection apparatus having a hollow clamshell casing with a contoured grip for the fingers, a horizontal extension to eliminate slippage when held in a user's hand, and a~~

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flange bottom portion from which a sample sleeve extends downwards. Within the clamshell casing an electric motor is mounted which drives, via spur gears the sample sleeve in a rotational manner. The distal end of the sample sleeve, is a cutting edge circumscribing a circular region. An ejection rod slides reciprocally within the sample sleeve between a retracted stowed position and an expulsion position. User cuts a sample from a substrate by engaging contact between the cutting edge of the sample sleeve and the substrate, applying pressure against the substrate and activating the motor to rotate the sample sleeve. Activation of the ejection rod towards the expulsion position displaces the sample into an appropriate collecting vessel.

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